

APPENDIX A**CLAIMS (STATUS)**

- 1 1. (Canceled) A transfer tool for the collection and transporting of a spilled material from
2 a spillage area comprising:
3 a deformable substrate member having deposited on the surface thereof a coating of a
4 material having a high affinity for said spilled material.

- 1 2. (Canceled) The transfer tool of claim 1 wherein said spilled material is mercury.

- 1 3. (Canceled) The transfer tool of claim 2 wherein said deformable substrate member
2 with said coating of high affinity for said spilled material, is a structure of coated
3 members taken from the group of a contacting quantity of particles, woven and matted
4 filaments, metal powders and particle sponges.

- 1 4. (Canceled) The transfer tool of claim 3 wherein said deformable substrate member
2 with said coating of high affinity for said spilled material, is a structure of coated metal
3 members in at least one of particle or filamentary form and taken from the group of copper,
4 zinc and silver.

- 1 5. (Canceled) The transfer tool of claim 4 wherein said coating of a material having a
2 high affinity for said spilled material is gold.

1 6. (Canceled) In the transferring of spilled material through the use of an intermediate
2 absorber member for the spilled material,
3 the improvement comprising:
4 a deformable absorber member in a form of at least one of a contacting quantity of
5 particles and a filamentary arrangement and the interstices of said absorber being coated
6 with a thin coating of a material having a high affinity for said spilled material.

1 7. (Canceled) The improvement of claim 6 wherein said spilled material is mercury.

1 8. (Canceled) The improvement of claim 7 wherein said material having a high affinity
2 for said spilled material is gold.

1 9. (Canceled) The improvement of claim 8 wherein the material in said deformable
2 absorber are of metal taken from the group of copper, zinc and silver.

1 10. (Canceled) The improvement of claim 9 wherein said deformable absorber is at least
2 one braid of copper wires.

1 11. (Canceled) In the handling of spilled material through transfer from the spillage
2 location, the improvement comprising:
3 the use of a deformable absorber member with a thin surface coating of a material that
4 has a high affinity for said spilled material.

1 12. (Canceled) The improvement of claim 11 wherein said deformable absorber member
2 is at least one of a quantity of contacting particles and intertwined filaments that impart
3 a wicking capability with respect to a spillage in liquid form.

- 1 13. (Canceled) The improvement of claim 12 wherein said deformable absorber
2 member is at least one braid of woven copper wires.
- 1 14. (Canceled) The improvement of claim 13 wherein said deformable absorber
2 member is contacting quantity of particles supported in an inert tubular holder.
- 1 15. (Canceled) The improvement of claim 12 wherein said spilled material is
2 mercury and said elements of said deformable absorber member are coated with gold.
- 1 16. (Currently amended) A transfer hand tool for the collection and transporting of a
2 quantity of spilled mercury from a spillage area comprising:
3 a deformable absorber serving as a spillage area contacting member, said contacting member
4 consisting of inert covering means in combination with ~~of at least one material~~ a wicking
5 transfer element selected from the group consisting of particles, woven and matted filaments,
6 metal powders and particle sponges, said contacting member being formed from a metal
7 selected from the group consisting of copper silver and zinc and,
8 a coating of a gold wetting agent on said contacting member on at least a portion contacting
9 said spillage area.

1 17. (Currently Amended) The process of collection and transporting of a quantity of
2 spilled mercury from a spillage area comprising the steps of:
3 providing a deformable absorbable hand tool serving as a spillage area contacting
4 member,
5 forming said member from inert covering means in combination with a wicking material
6 being formed of at least one material selected from the group consisting of particles,
7 woven and matted filaments, metal powders and particle sponges, and
8 said contacting member having formed to have a deformable region and a contacting
9 region and
10 forming said contacting member from a metal selected from the group consisting of
11 copper silver and zinc and
12 having a coating of said metal comprising said contacting member with a coating of gold,
13 positioning said member with said deformable area in contact with said spillage area,
14 and, moving said member over said spillage area,
15 transporting of a quantity of liquid spilled mercury from said spillage area.

1 18. (New) The transfer hand tool for the collection and transporting of a quantity of
2 spilled mercury from a spillage area defined in Claim 16 wherein said said wicking
3 transfer element is a copper particle.

1 19. (New) The transfer hand tool for the collection and transporting of a quantity of
2 spilled mercury from a spillage area defined in Claim 16 wherein said said wicking
3 transfer element is a copper filament.

1 20. (New) The transfer hand tool for the collection and transporting of a quantity of
2 spilled mercury from a spillage area defined in Claim 19 wherein said said copper¹⁶
3 filaments are present in the form of a braided filaments.